

# 2013 Local Elections



## Mozambique political process bulletin

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## MDM challenging results in 10 cities

Mozambique Democratic Movement (Movimento Democrático de Moçambique, MDM) is formally contesting the results in 10 municipalities: Maputo, Matola, Beira, Chimoio, Marromeu, Gorongosa, Quelimane, Mocuba, Gurué and Milange, according to MDM spokesman Sande Carmona. He told the *Bulletin* that the MDM has proof in these 10 that Frelimo had changed the results in collusion with electoral authorities.

Lutero Simango, a member of the MDM political commission, said they were not yet releasing their proof. Carmona said supporting material had been submitted to city election commissions, but that as city results are officially preliminary, they are waiting to see if the National Elections Commission makes changes to the results before submitting evidence to court and publishing it.

## Poll watchers arrested

Arrest of its poll watchers (delegates) is high on the MDM list of complaints. Often delegates were arrested in polling stations just before the count, which meant MDM had no one to watch the count and could not receive an official copy of the results sheet (edital) which makes it hard to carry out a parallel count or protest.

Sande Carmona said that MDM is still receiving reports of arrested delegates, so has no total yet. But he pointed to Dondo where he said 22 delegates were arrested on polling day, Wednesday, and 15 were only released yesterday, Sunday.

MDM in Maputo said 70 of its delegates had been arrested. Lutero Simango declined to give a number, but said a formal protest had been made. But he said all had been released. And he showed a release note for Martins Nhampule, a delegate in George Dimitrov neighbourhood, who had been arrested just before the count on the ground that his credential was not an "original". He was released "for lack of evidence" ("insuficiência de indícios") by a Maputo Criminal Court judge, Dinis Francisco Silica Nhavotso. (see photos; Mandado de Solutura is instruction to release.)

ficado solto por insuficiência de indícios. --  
A SOLTAR:

A number of arrests have been over alleged forged or improper delegate documents that had been

issued by local election commissions.



## ASSEMONA protests in Angoche

The citizen's list ASSEMONA, which came second in Angoche and pushed MDM into third, made a formal protest on polling day, 20 November. It claimed that "the district electoral administrator took packets of ballot papers and gave them to Frelimo, which marked them for its candidate Américo Assane Adamugy and then distributed them to members to put into ballot boxes." STAE responded officially the next day, that as this would be a crime, it had been passed to the public prosecutor's office (Ministério Público). In its complaint, it says it caught several people with ballot papers.

Perhaps the most flagrant was at 6.45 on voting day, before polls opened, when a group of pre-voted ballot papers was found in the house in bairro da Boleia – Emopescas of a candidate on the Frelimo list for municipal assembly. And at 8.00 an ASSEMONA delegate stopped a voter putting five ballot papers for president and five for assembly, all marked for Frelimo, into the ballot box.

ASSEMONA gave *Bulletin* a list of numbers on the ballot papers it had in its possession. These include 030201008009, 030201008010 (see photo), 030201031978, and 030201031977 for mayor. For Municipal Assembleia they include: 030201021811, 030201021803, 030201021810, 030201021809, 030201031663, 030201031662 and 030201008709.



We have attempted without success to confirm that these are real ballot papers, and which polling station they come from, but STAE has not responded to our request.

### Were ballot papers falsely invalidated in Gondola?

The Electoral Observatory parallel count indicated two polling stations in Gondola where ballot papers for the opposition may have been invalidated, In Gondola Frelimo gained 64% and MDM 36%. Most polling stations have fewer than 10 invalid ballot papers. But in polling station 6008805, there were an incredible 74 invalid ballot papers (nulos) and Frelimo gained 80%. In polling station 6008906, there were 41 nulos and Frelimo gained 73%. In these two it looks like polling station staff improperly put an extra mark on up to 100 MDM votes, making them invalid.

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